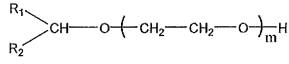
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Cancelled) A compound of the formula (I):

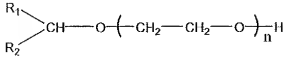


(I)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_1-C_4 alkyl, and
m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

2. (Cancelled) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the group R_1R_2CH- is 4-methyl-pent-2-yl.

3. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_1-C_4 alkyl, and n is an integer ≥ 0 and

wherein the average molar value of n for the total of the compounds of formula (II) in said composition is in the range of 1 to [[3]] 2.

4. (Cancelled) A composition according to claim 3 wherein the average molar value of n is in the range of 1 to 2.

5. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[4]] 3 wherein the average molar value of n is about 1.7.

6. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 3 wherein R_1R_2CH- is 4-methyl-pent-2-yl.

7. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where n=0 comprises less than 15% by weight of the total composition.

8. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where n=0 comprises less than 10% by weight of the total composition.

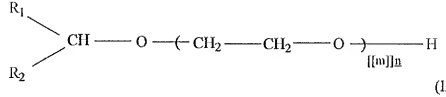
9. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where n=0 comprises less than or equal to 6.5% by weight of the total composition.

10. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the total combined weight of compounds where n=0 and n=1 is such that the closed-cup flash point of said composition is greater than 65°C.

11. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the total weight of compounds of formula (II) where n is greater than 4 is less than 20% of the combined total of compounds of formula (II).

12. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 3 which further comprises other additives.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_1-C_4 alkyl, and n is an integer ≥ 0, and

wherein the average molar value of n for the total of the compounds of formula (II) in said composition is in the range of 1 to [[3]] 2, said method comprising:

reacting an excess of C_3–C_9 secondary alcohol with ethylene oxide in the presence of a catalyst in an ethoxylation vessel to form a mixture of two or more compounds of formula (II), separating at least a portion of unreacted secondary alcohol from the mixture, and recycling the unreacted secondary alcohol back to the ethoxylation vessel.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the C_3-C_9 secondary alcohol is 4-methyl-2-pentanol.

15. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 13 wherein the unreacted secondary alcohol is removed by distillation to provide a composition comprising unreacted secondary alcohol in an amount of less than 15% by weight of the total composition.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein unreacted secondary alcohol comprises less than 10% by weight of the total composition.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the unreacted secondary

alcohol comprises less than or equal to 8% by weight of the total composition.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 13 comprising a distillation step to remove from the composition compounds of formula (II) wherein n=0 and n=1 such that the closed-cup flash point of said composition is greater than 65°C.

19. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 14 wherein total weight of compounds of formula (II) where n is greater than 4 in said composition is less than 20% of the combined total of the compounds of formula (II) in the composition.

20. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the ethylene oxide to C_3-C_9 secondary alcohol ratio is kept below 70 wt% in said ethoxylation vessel.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein the ratio is kept below 10 wt%.

22. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the catalyst is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal base catalyst or a Lewis or Bronsted acid catalyst.

23. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the catalyst is a Narrow Range Ethoxylation catalyst.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the alkali metal catalyst is potassium hydroxide.

25. (Cancelled) A method of preparing a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, comprising reacting a C_3-C_9 secondary alcohol with ethylene oxide in the presence of a catalyst, and isolating the compounds from the reaction mixture by distillation.

26. (Previously Amended) A froth flotation process for the recovery of clean coal from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the

slurry.

27. (Previously Amended) A froth flotation process according to claim 26, wherein the froth flotation process is performed in a Microcel®.

28. (Previously Amended) A froth flotation process according to claim 26, wherein the froth flotation process is performed in a Jameson® cell.

29. (Previously Amended) A froth flotation process according to claim 26 wherein the froth flotation process is performed in an EKOF® cell.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~improveing~~ improving the performance of a dissolved air flotation process, the method comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to lower the liquid surface tension of a slurry used in the process.

31. (Previously Amended) A flotation process for the recovery and concentration of desirable minerals or selective removal of undesirable minerals from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.

32. (Previously Amended) A flotation process for the recovery of sulphide minerals from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.

33. (Previously Amended) A froth flotation process for refining mineral or coal, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to a slurry of mineral or coal.

34. (Cancelled) A solvent for formulation of dyes, oils, resins and other industrial products, the solvent comprising a composition according to claim 3.

35. (Cancelled) A process for coupling polar organic compounds with hydrocarbon

liquids the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to a mixture of polar organic compounds and hydrocarbon liquids.

36. (Cancelled) A diluent for hydraulic fluids, the diluent comprising a composition according to claim 3.